(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recover the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The number of applications pending for issue of licences for S.T.D. P.C.Os in the Metropolitan Cities of the Country:—

Delhi	1032
Bombay	876
Calcutta	665
Madras	6073

(b) and (c) Pending review of STD/PCO Policy, sanction of STD/PCOs was temporary suspended.

Revised policy guidelines have been issued for sanctioning such PCOs for edccated unemployed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Telephone directory for Hyderabad

883. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the periodicity of publishing the telephone directories for the Hyderabad Telecom area;

(b) the year in which the last telephone directory was published for Hyderabad Telephones; and

(c) whether the Hyderabad Telecom bring out telephone directories on annual basis.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The periodicity of publication of Telephone Directories in Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts is once a year.

(b) The last edition of Hyderabad Telephone Directory was published in June, 1992.

(c) No, Sir. Due to failure of the contractor, the periodicity of one year for publishing telephone directories could not be adhered to by Hyderabad Telecom. However, all efforts are being made to adhere to guidelines as at (a) above.

Benefits of new technology to the phone subscribers

884. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to initiate to pass on the benefits of new technology to phone subscribers in the form of letter service and lower tariffs;

(b) whether it is a fact that increase in tariff for telecom services have become a regular feature; and

(c) whether the Telecom system in other countries are being studied to pass on lower phone tariffs to phone users to give relief to the phone owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) Ecorts are continuously being made to improve the service by inducting new technology and pass on the benefits to the subscribers by means of rationalisation of tariffs and better service. The details of action initiated are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The tariffs are rationalised taking into account various factors including tariffs of other countries.

Statement

Following action have been initiated by the Government to pass on the benefits of new technology in the form of better services to the subscribers:

1. Introduction of Digital electronic exchanges in both urban and rural areas with Subscribers Trunk Dialling facilities.